

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 11, 13-18, and 21-33 are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 28 and 29 have already been indicated as being allowable, although they are objected to as being dependent from rejected base claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for conducting an interview with Applicant's representative on April 1, 2010. During the interview, proposed claim amendments to independent claims 11 and 22 were discussed. The Examiner stated that the proposed amendments would overcome the art of record in this application, and that the amendments to claim 22 would overcome its rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. The amendments shown above represent the proposed amendments, as well as an additional amendment to claim 17 and the addition of new claims 32 and 33.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As agreed by the Examiner, the amendments to claim 22 remove the basis for this rejection, and thus it should be removed.

Claims 22-27 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hirschfeld et al (US 6,892,602).

Claims 11, 13-17, 21 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hirschfeld in view of Papandreou (US 6,318,756).

Claim 11 is amended to further define the claimed “elevation.” Support for these amendments is present in at least FIG. 1b and paragraph [0030] of the specification.

Claim 22 is amended to further define the “leaf spring.” Support for these amendments is present, for example, in FIGS. 1a, 1b, and 2, and paragraphs [0031]-[0034] of the specification.

As agreed during the Examiner Interview, claims 11 and 22 and their dependent claims are patentable over the prior art of record in this application.

Therefore, amended claim 11 is patentable over Hirschfeld.

New claims 32 and 33 are added to further define the steering column arrangements of claims 11 and 22, respectively. Support for these claims is present in at least FIGS. 1a, 1b and 2 and paragraph [0029] of the specification. Claims 32 and 33 are patentable due to their dependence from claims 11 and 22, respectively, and because the prior art does not disclose their limitations.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

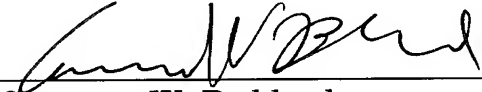
If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit
Account No. 05-1323, Docket No. 095309.56366US.

Respectfully submitted,

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